





The Epistle

your HIGHNESSE, or in anie sort cast their eyes once toward the Orient, Where the bright splendent beames of your incomparable MAIESTIE, lighteth our Horizon, to the comfort and consolation of manie thousand afflicted, & the singular ioy of the whole Realme, verie fewe persons excepted, whose bleared eyes being da'led therewith, sought palpable darknesse, to auoide the cleare light then arising with the rare Comet or incomparable day starre of your most excellent MAIESTIE vnto vs: whose piercing rayes hath since like the Sunne beames both dispersed all grosse mistes and foggies of ignorance, error, & blinde superstition, and withall so comforted and nourished the plant of infallible truth of the Gospell, (first taking roote in this Land in the short Raigne of the pcerlesse Prince EDWARD the sixt your MAIESTIES Brother, of most rare expectation and famous memorie) as the same being now sprung up to a perfect tree of such full growth, that the branches thereof haue spread themselves long and wide manie waies ouer other Empires, Kingdomes & States, murthering the Diuell, the Pope, & the King of Spaine, with all their fraternitie, comforts, leaguers, and adherents, or other their Ministers, spreaders and maintainers of lies, vnder the shelter and couert of which flourishing Palme, all true Christians haue been, are, and (I hope) long shall be (by the continuance of your MAIESTIES most bountifull and gracious especiall fauor) protected and shrowded, from the burning heate of the sharpe persecutions of all malicious Enemies thereof: the which GOD of his great mercie graunt. Pondering I say (most high and mightie PRINCESSE) the manifold imminent dangers, your sacred MAIESTIE by the omnipotent wonderfull providence of Almighty GOD, with more than humane vertue, and feminine patience sustained; & in the end (contrarie to all expectation) escaping the rage, furie, tyrannicall attempts, and secret diuellsish practises of your HIGHNESSE mortall Enemies, & utter professed vnrconcilable aduersaries to the eternall truth: whereof my selfe was an eye witnesse, and so farre princi of some of the most mischieuous intended conspiracies, as for my faithfull inuoluntaries by such rare secrete seruices as were by mee effected to

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present the same, I tasted (amongst the rest of such as then honoured, reuerenced, and of bounden duetie loued your MAIESTIES rare vertues) so great extremitie of imprisonment, & other hard vsage many wayes, as escaping with life, (by timely and happy alteration of the state) I felt long after the paines of those torments, whereby my health in xx. yeares after was extreemly empayred: But when I consider on the other side withall, the strange and miraculous Heroicall Actions both martiall & politick which haue been (since in the time past of your HIGHNESSE most prosperous raigne) beyond all expectation performed with singuler gouernment and incomparable magnanimitie, farre passing all humane wisdom and mans force (whereof posteritie shall want no due recordes of worthy Registers) I cannot but forget all sorrow, & exceedingly reioyce, assuring & perswading my selfe GOD hath ordained your MAIESTIE to accomplish yet farre greater matters for his glory and your owne eternall memory, than time hath yet reuealed: for the better accomplishment whereof, euery dutifull subiect and good Patriote ought in time of tranquillitie to prepare and furnish themselves according to their severall gifts, abilities, and different faculties: to further and set forth a worke so great as is likely to fall out by all consequence of reason in this your MAIESTIES most happy raygne, vtz. the Nobilitie with learning, iudgement, and experience, for counsell and aduice, as well for warlike discipline as for ciuill gouernment; for that the one cannot long continue without the other: Gentlemen with ingenious deuises and stratagems of warre both for sea and land, and the whole Souldiours of all sorts with actiuitie, and the practise of such sortes of weapons as they shall addresse themselves vnto, or be found fit to serue withall, whereby euery man of what degree or quality sooner profiting the wars, may in time of cessations of Armes, some in one sorte, some in another, inable themselves for the defence of their Countrey, against they shalbe imployed: for without appointment & calling, no man ought to intrude or offer himselfe, in such sorte as is now too commonly used; which is the cause that so many audacious insufficient blinde bayardes are set a worke: whilest the modest, skilfull,

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and experienced line retired, attending their vocation by the Magistrate: of which number I professe my selfe in my facultie to bee one, who hauing these fortie yeares amongst many other most commendable exercises and inuentions of so warlike Engines, founde out diuers deuises of rare seruice, both for Sea and land, some whereof (whose charge exceeded not my small abilitie) I haue performed and made the vse thereof knowne vnto many my honourable, skilfull and experienced good friendes at home, and to some Princes beyonde the Seas, whereof ignorant persons hauing by chaunce light on some Modules or Patternes of small importance imperfect, haue vainely arrogated the inuention vnto themselves; not knowing in any sorte the vse and force thereof in seruice making thereby great aduantage to themselves by abusing superiour Authoritie with these imperfect first Elements of my preparations to greater matters; supplying the lamenes and effects thereof, by their formality, and mellacious frivolous discourses, wherein there is no substance to any purpose: seeking to reape thereby the fruites of my chargeable and painefull labours; & my name in the meane time neuer once brought in question: Such is and hath bene the insolent, and shameles boldnes of ignorant persons in all times fit to be restrained, least greater mischiefs and inconueniences ensue thereby, when occasion requireth due triall to be made of their sufficiency, and the right vse of these rare Experiments. But to leaue (most gracious SOVERAIGNE) the consideration of these important causes vnto the deepe wisdom and discrete prouidence of your HIGHNES owne carefull foresight, and the ordering and reformation thereof to such as are in authoritie: And to returne to my purpose, among many studious inuentions, wherunto I haue bent my minde as well for the seruice of my countrey, when time shall serue, as for mine owne satisfaction, Looking withall into some parte of the rare inscrutable secrets of naturall Philosophie, and filling sometimes to the chargeable, paynesfull, and fruitles practise thereof, by distillation, and other transmutation of Plants, Herbs, Stones and Mineralls of all sortes: ayiming at that marke, which many learned and great

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ter Clearks than my selfe haue shot at, and yet missed; I haue notwithstanding by the way light (to my singular contentment) on infinite rare conclusions, both profitable, pleasant, and seruiceable; so that although my simple skill could not attaine to such perfection, as I desired, yet haue I no cause to repent me any way of my trauels therein employed but rather great occasion to lament me of my long discontinuance from the same, by losse of many yeares spent vnprofitably in a laborinth of law suites, and priuate contention with men of verie great abilitie, and better friended than my selfe, wherein now utterly wearied, and worne out of heart, through the greatnes of my aduersaries purse and friendes, I am now forced for want of abilitie, after ten yeares chargeable suite, to relinquish the same, and to returne to those my delectable studies and seruiceable exercises againe, as well to digest melancholick conceits, as to keepe olde age from such extreame wants, as the iniquitie of times, the tedious greenance by delayes, the strining against strög armes wil bring; the least able to weary a far welthier man than my selfe, hoping yet to recouer some parte of my lost time, and (if abilitie altogether faile me not before I die,) to make vnto your MAIESTIE some rare Present by experiments Chemicall or Martiall, such as hitherto hath not been performed by any other. Wherefore (most gracious SOVERAIGNE) desiring henceforth to employ the rest of my shorte course, in more serious sorte, to the seruice of GOD, your MAIESTIE, and my Countrey, & by all meanes I can possible to profit some wayes this Royall kingdome and State, (wherein I haue liued these threescore yeares and more) I am bolde to publish this rare worke of learned Ripley vnder your MAIESTIES protection for the instruction and direction of all students, and louers of the secreat Mysteries of naturall Philosophie, deliuering most compendiously the hidden Arte and high Mysterie of making the Philosophers Stone, (sought for by many thousandes in all ages, but founde of very fewe, and they such as rapte with the excellency thereof, haue in contempt of the worlde, retired themselves from com-

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upon societie, keeping the same most secret to themselves, esteeming
the world not worthy of so precious a Jewell. For the certaintie
and probabilitie whereof, if any shall bee doubtfull let them adu-
sedly reade throughly this work, and afterwards peruse the doings
of such other our worthy countrymen as haue written most lear-
nedly thereof, as Frier Bacon, Iohn Pauper, Sir Thomas Norton
knight, Iohn Garland, & especially M. Doctor Dee in his Mo-
nas Hieroglyphica, and many others most plainly teaching the
same, whose depth of learning Theoricall if it were yet executed
by any experienced practitioner, I doubt not but your MAIESTIE
should shortly see that which the world thinketh messemoria
to be aduised: and if I had bin so fortunate as to haue spent these
seauen yeares past in one of your MAIESTIES manifold fruit-
lesse still-bowes: I durst before this time haue presumed to promise
more of my selfe than I will speak of, which disability through my
foresaid troubles, now suffer me not to performe in such sorte as I
desire, & haue best leisure to doe in my old age, but I hope (the pre-
misses considered, my dutifull good will, & affection to my country
in giuing incouragement and means vnto others by publicatio of
this most learned Author) will be taken in good parte, the rather
being patronized by your sacred MAIESTIE, against all ve-
nymous darts of the enuious & malicious tongue, of such who be-
ing ignorant themselves of all good sciences, would otherwise ma-
ligne the perfections & vertuous induements of the well deserving.
Thus hoping your MAIESTIE will of your accustomed cle-
mencie, accept of this my present as a pledge of my fidelity and du-
tifull zeale to your MAIESTIE, humbly craving pardon for
my boldnes, I cease to be further troublesome, daylie praying to the
Almighty long to continue your MAIESTIES most prosperous
Raizne ouer vs, with great increase of honour, and felicitie, to his
glory, vntill double Nestors yeares.

Your MAIESTIES most loyall subiect,

RAPH RABBARDES.



To the right Honourable, Wor-
shipfull, and worthy Gentlemen
of England, and other learned & indu-
strious Students in the secrets of
Philosophie.



HAuing referred the Copie hereof (Right Ho-
norable, and gentle Readers) these fortie
yeares for many secrete vices, corrected by the
most learned of our time, and feeling my self,
now through age declining, and otherwise
hyndred with troublesome suites in law, which constrained
me to discontinue these and such other comendable prac-
tises, for the benefite and defence of my Prince and Coun-
trie: I haue thought good to publish the same, the rather
for that there are but a few copies left, and those for the
most parte corrupted by negligence, or mistaking of igno-
rant writers thereof: Being partly encouraged hereunto
by the learned Philosopher Seneca, who accompteth it
an Act meritorious to preserve or reuiue Science from the
Cinders, and to eternize vertuous acts with perpetual me-
morie: Finding it strange, that so excellent a Monument
as this most rare and learned worke of George Ripley, should
so long lye hidden in obscuritie, & passe from hand to hand
a hundreth and fiftie yeares without vtter defacing; see-
ing that many notable works published, haue in far shorter
time perished. He liued in the time of king Edward the 4.
& Richard the usurper, in great fame & estimation, for his
rare knowledge in these secrets: And to vtter his further
comendatio in a word, if this his worke be perused with the

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The Preface.

eye of iudgement, and practised by those that are experienced, I shall not neede to feare the losse of my labour, when some of my Countreymen which cannot attaine vnto the highest hidden mysterie, shall yet finde many things both pleasant and profitable, diuers wayes seruiceable to Kingdomes, States, and Common weales: And if one among tenne thousand can hit the marke, (whereat the whole worlde hath aymed) we shall not hereafter neede to seeke out the Sandes of *Ganges*, for that which lyeth hid in the secrets of *Ripley*: which I offer here to the view of the learned, and haue presumed the publishing hereof, chiefly for the benefite of my Countrey men, and especially to satisfie the often & importunate request of many my learned good friends, not doubting but that the skilfull will yeelde me my due, howsoever the ignorant shal esteeme thereof: which if I shall finde to be accepted according to my good meaning, I shall thereby be further encouraged to impart some other rare experiments of *Distillations* and *Fire-workes* of great seruice, not hitherto committed in writing or put in practise by any of our nation; although of late some meere toies haue bene highly admired, and extraordinarily rewarded: The charge whereof will be found vtterly lost, when perfect tryall shall be made of their slender vse and force. To conclude, If this my good intent shalbe answerable to your expectations, I haue obtained the fulnes of my desires.

*Yours in the furtherance
of Science,*

Raph Rabbards.



Thomas Newtonus Cestreshyrius.

A *Lechymice indagans arcana Georgius artis
Chremata Ripleyus, rari mihi astra reliquit
Ingenij monumenta sui, qua nulli setuisti
Excedat, aut putri poterit sepelire & eterno.*

*Ille nemo manibus mysteria tanta
Tradit, ut Hermeticam generetur rotas
Hanc Plaso diuinus secus vocat, aurea Nasa
Vellera, & a Vigili mala aurea septa dracon.
Laudibus hanc multis celebrant Mirandula, Lullus,
Geber, Auicenna, Hippocrates, Morienus, Agninus,
Dami Scotus, Arnaldus, Vincentius, Oldradus, Hermes,
Plinius, Albertus, Ficinus, Cusa, Palesius,
Eustathius, Suidas, Macro, Zosimus, Haly, Baconus,
Rasus, Aristoteles, Rosinus, Petrus ipse Apocensis,
Compluresq; alij: cunctis alma hinc grata Sophia
Munera persoluant, linguisq; animisq; benigni.*

Thomas Newton.



*J. D. gent: in praise of the Author,
and his Worke.*

L O here a Worke, containing rare effects,
Replete with ipest fruits of *Ripley* toyle,
Whose mellowed saueur studious mindes direct
T'attaine the skill that may enrich their soile:
And though his Booke be carped at by Zule,
Yet doth the same comprize such depth of Art,
As makes his fame eternized by deale.

The learned will (no doubt) delight therein,
And their delight will draw them on to skill:
Admit the simple force it not a pin,
So much the more the wise embrace it will.
Who seeks by Art to clymbe vp Honors hill,
To such perteynes this precious Stone diuine,
For pease are fitter farre, than Pearle for Swine.

Tum Arte, quam Marte.

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P.B.



P. Bales Gent in commendation
of the Author, and his twelve gates:
Orderly set down in the 12. last verses.

GRaunt to me *Muses* nine, & thou most sacred *Apollo*,
That in a vaine of a lofty verse, I may be reporter
Of the renowned skil to *g* world by *Ripley* reuealed:
Which in a Book tituled by the name of *Alchymie* compoūd
He to the King *Edward* of England fourth fro the cōqueſt,
Writt in a verse pithily, with his hād verry worthily pēd.

(teacheth,
Twelue chapters did he write, by the first to *Calcine* he
And by the next readily priue *Dissolution* handleth:
To *Seperate* Eliments verry plaine by the third he declareth,
And by the fourth (as in marriage) *Coniunction* ordreth:
To *Purifie* most kindly the seede by the 5. he pronounceth:
And by the sixt chapter true *Congelation* vttereth,

The followeth by the seauēth, how must be *Cibation* vsed,
But by the next chapter, duely *Sublimation* offered,
Ninthly the way measured, for *Fermentation* aptly,
And by the tenth rightly, there is *Exaltation* holden,
Infinite in number (he wen how to *Multiplie* leauently:
Lastly, the work verry fitly by cleanly *Projection* endeth.

Statuto bono, statim.

The Summe of this VVorke, learnedly
reduced into these few Verses, by the diuine
Poet Palingenius.

Hinc iuuenem Archadium, insulam, numidum, fugacem,
Prendite, & immerſum Strygi occidite Lynphi
Post Hyales gremio impositum Deus excipiat, quem
Lemnia terra colit, sublatumq; in cruce figat:
Tunc ſepelire Siero in calido, & diſſoluite putrem:
Cuius ſilantes arſus de corpore noſtro
Spiritus egrediens penetrabit: & ordine mira,
Paulatione extinctum nigri renouabit ab ſomnis,
Aut atque indutum clamyde, argenteoq; nitentem:
Proſcite hunc demum in prunas, renouabitur alter
Vt Phoenix: & quæ laqueis, perſeſſa relinquet
Corpora, natura, eges & ſcedera Vincens:
Mucabit ſpeciei: pauperatimq; fugatit.

S. E. K. concerning the Philoſophers Stone,
written to his eſpeciall good friend, G. S.
Gent.

THe heauenlie Cope hath in him natures fower,
Two hidden, but the reſt to ſight appeare:
Wherein the Spermes of all the bodies lower
Moſt ſecret are, yet ſpring forth once a yeare:
And as the earth with water Authors are,
So of his part is drins end of care.

No flood ſo great, as that which floweth ſtill:
No thing more fixt, than Earth digeſted thrice:
No winde ſo freſh, as when it ſerueth will:
No profit more, then keepe in, and be wife:
No better hap, than drie vp aire to duſt,
For then thou maiſt leaue of, and ſleepe thy luſt.

Yet will I warne thee, leaſt thou chauce to faile,
Sublime thine earth with ſtinking water criſt:
Then in a place where *Phabus* onely tayle,
Is ſcene at midday, ſee thou mingle beſt:
For nothing ſhineth that doth want his light,
Nor doubleth beames, vnleſſe it firſt be bright.

Sr. E. K. on the Phil. Stone.

Let no man lead, unless he knowe the way,
That wise men teach, or *Adrop* leadeth in,
Whereof the first is large, and easiest; nay,
The other hard, and meane but to begin,
For surely these, and no one more is found,
Wherein *Apollis* will his harp strings found.

Example learne of G O D, that please the Skies,
Reflecting vertues from and 'euene poyns,
In which the mouer wherein all things lies,
Doth hold the vertues all of euene ioynt:
And therefore *Esence* first may well be said,
Containing all, and yet himselfe a maid.

Remember also how the Gods began,
And by dissent who was to each the Syre:
Then learne their liues and kingdomes if thou can,
Their manners eke, with all their whole attire:
Which if thou doe, and knowe to what effect,
The learned *Sophies* will thee not reiect.

If this my Doctrine bend not with thy braine,
Then say I nothing, though I say too much:
Of truth tis good, will moued me, not gaine,
To write these lines: yet write I not to such
As catch at crabs, when better frutes appeare,
And want to chuse at fittest time of yeare.

Thou maist (my friend) say, What is this for lore?
I answer, Such as auncient *Phisicke* taught:
And though thou red a thousand bookes before,
Yet in respect of this, they teach thee naught:
Thou maist likewise be blinde, and call me foole,
Yet shall these Rules for euer praise their Schoole.

Sr. E. K.

The



The Vision of Sir George Ripley,
Chanon of Bridlington.

When busse at my booke I was upon a certaine night,
This Vision here exprest appear'd unto my dimmed sight,
A toade full ruddle I saw did drinke the iuice of grapes so fast,
Till ouercharged with the broath, his bowells all to brast,
And after that from poysoned bulke, he cast his venome sell,
For griefe and paine whereof his members all began to swell;
With drops of poysoned sweate approaching thus his secret den,
His caue with blasts of fumous ayre, he all bewhited then:
And from the which in space a golden humor did ensue,
Whose falling drops from high did staine the soile with ruddy hew,
And when his corps, the force of vitall breath began to lacke,
This dying toade became forthwith like coale for colour black:
Thus drowned in his proper Veynes of poysoned blood,
For tearme of eightie dayes and foure he rotting stood:
By tryall then this venome to expell I did desire,
For which I did commit his carke to a gentle fire:
Which done, a wonder to the sight, but more to be reheart,
The roade with colours rare through euery side was pearst:
And white appear'd when all the sundry heues were past:
Which after being tintled ruddle for euermore did last:
Then of the venome handled thus a medicine I did make,
Which venom kill, and saue such as venome chauncer to take,
Glory be to him the graunter of such secret wayes,
Dominion, and Honour, both with worship and with prayse.

A M E N.

Titulus operis.

Here beginneth the compound of *Alchymie*,
 Made by a Chanon of Bridlington,
 After his learning in Italie,
 At Ixninge for time he there did wonne:
 In which he declared openly
 The secrets both of Moone and Sonne,
 How they their kinde to multiplie
 In one bodie together must woonne.
 Which Chanon Sir George Ripley hight;
 Exempt from Claustrall obseruance,
 For whom ye pray both day and night,
 Sith he did labour you to aduance,
 He turned darknes into light,
 Intending to helpe you to happie chaunce,
 Giuing counsaile that you liue right,
 Doing vnto God no displeaunce.

A briefe note to the Readers.

THe Wheele that is placed (Gentlemen) last, as the period of this secret Worke may of some be challenged (through the diuersitie of Copies) to differ from the first. But herein I assure you I have observed no lesse care than counsaile, and that of knowen Praefisers, whose censures (made more certaine by experience) haue determined all doubts, and made me bolde to publish what followeth for the most auncient. If anie literall fault be past, amend it with your pens: if anie carper inueigh against me, defend me with your curtesies: and let them (if they can) condemne by cunning. Farewell.

R. Rabbarde.

The



The Compound of *Alchymie.*

A most excellent, learned, and wor-
 thie worke, written to king Edward
 the fourth, by Sir George Ripley,
 Chanon of Bridlington in York-shire, con-
 taining i welke gates.

The Prologue.

Childe of this discipline incline to methine care
 And harkē to my doctrine with al thy diligece
 These words of wisdomē in minde doe thou
 Which of olde fathers be true in sentence: (heare,
 Liue cleane in soule, to God doe no offence.
 Exalt thee not but rather keepe thee lowe,
 Else will thy God in thee no wisdomē sowe.

From sinfull doctrine and wicked thought,
 The holy spirite doth him withdraw,
 Nilling to dwell where sinne is wrought:
 Dread God therefore and obey his law:
 A righteous man forsooke I neuer sawe:
 Neyther his seede begge bread for neede:
 In holy scripture this doe I reede.

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